

From January to June this year the unemployment in Tennessee rose from 5.4 percent to 5.6 percent. That is a loss of 10,900 jobs. This has occurred despite the 4,000 new jobs that have occurred since Gov. Phil Bredesen took office. Of course, some of these new jobs were the result of the administration of Gov. Don Sundquist.

Tennessee Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development Matt Kisber said that economic development has continued as a seamless transition between the two administrations. That included landing the \$124 million Toyota plant at Jackson.

Unemployment in Blount County and Tennessee has remained below the national average. But still many local families tell of their sons and daughters with 20 years seniority losing their jobs in other states as major corporations moves their manufacturing plants to Mexico or China.

We need to tell you that we do not think the problem with the economy is the fault of action or inaction by any administration, state or national.

We think the whole problem with the economy lies with the nation's free trade—global economy—approach approved by Congress. And we have to tell you that we have supported the free trade policy. It sounds good on paper but it doesn't work for several reasons.

We were wrong!

It is time for the United States to abandon a free trade policy and adopt a fair trade policy.

In a free trade policy, the nations remove tariffs that protect manufacturing businesses in our country.

A fair trade policy would permit tariffs that would result in selling goods for prices that would be fair considering the differences in the manufacturing costs—things such as wages, working conditions and materials.

National governments have the authority to set tariffs and quota unless they agree not to do so.

Of course, what has happened is that many major U.S. companies have moved their manufacturing operations to China, or are in the process of doing so, to take advantage of the lower wages. That permits them to make bigger profit.

If they were to pay that profit to stockholders that would be fine, the stock market would rebound strongly and help a lot of people, especially those with 401-Ks and IRAs, but that is not going to happen. They will continue to waste much of it on overpaid, greedy executives. Most items can be manufactured for far less in countries where there are no labor standards and the pay scale is very low.

We will probably pay the same price for the manufactured items but we will not have the jobs that will enable our people to purchase the items.

Today, Americans are having to train some of their replacements in countries such as China and India, individuals who will do their job when the companies move overseas.

Think about it!

Our nation cannot maintain its standard of living with all of the manufacturing jobs going overseas.

If allowed to continue unabated, the free trade market would result in our nation sharing its wealth with poor nations. In other words, our standard of living will be greatly reduced.

The difference between most rich and poor nations is farm subsidies and import duties, a form of tariff.

It seems to us that it would be far better to maintain our standard of living and as a nation and provide more foreign aid support

to needy nations. That doesn't mean money to provide arms for Israel or its opponents but perhaps food to the starving.

Textiles are having the most tribulations, jobwise. The U.S. lost 8,000 textile jobs in July. And that doesn't count the 7,600 likely to be lost by the July 30 bankruptcy of Pillowtex Corp., a 106-year-old textile manufacturer.

Since April, the United States has lost 26,000 jobs in textiles and 21,000 jobs in apparel.

Next year's deadline is the end of a decade-long phase-out for quotas used by the United States and other wealthy countries to limit imports from developing countries. That is expected to accelerate China's growing market dominance. The American Textile Manufacturers Institute predicts that 630,000 jobs in textiles, apparel and related industries could be lost by 2006. The impact could be felt as early as next spring as material orders are placed.

North Carolina would be the biggest loser with about 85,000 more losing their jobs in the next three years. That is two out of every three jobs remaining in this field. South Carolina would have 42,000 layoffs.

Quotas slow the drain of U.S. jobs but are estimated to cost an average family of four \$300 to \$750 a year more for clothes. That is a small price to pay for a job though.

Of course, developing nations have something to say about this too. Many of them have tariffs on industrial goods which they must import from richer nations.

Hopefully, we as a nation could be smarter at the bargaining table in adjusting quotas and tariffs in a fair trade market. It appears to us that if we lose the majority of our manufacturing jobs there will not be anything left to negotiate!

NORTHWEST INDIANA ALLIANCE BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate and recognize the Northwest Indiana Alliance Basketball Team on winning the national title for the 9th grade category at the United States Specialty Sports Association Nationals in Fort Wayne, Indiana on August 3, 2003. The tournament began on July 30, 2003 and ended with the Alliance's outstanding victory against the Illinois Wildcats on August 3rd.

The Northwest Indiana Alliance is made up of seven high school sophomores and two freshmen from across Northwest Indiana, along with their coach Mr. Jim Van Weelden. With their collaborated efforts, they achieved victories over other teams from Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, and other states across the nation. With an outstanding record throughout multiple tournaments, the Alliance completed their highly successful season with 34 victories and 17 losses, 16 of those by ten points or less.

Mr. Aric Van Weelden, a sophomore at Munster High School, has been a member of the Junior Varsity team for Munster since his freshman year. Two other Alliance members, Mr. Scott Rutkowski and Mr. Jeff Marinier, were also members of the Munster High School Junior Varsity Basketball Team as freshmen. Mr. Andrew Helmer, from Highland High School, plays three different sports for his high school including football, basketball,

and baseball. All four of these great athletes from Northwest Indiana became leaders for the Alliance team by averaging 12 to 15 points each per game.

Mr. Nate Triezenberg, a resident of Highland, is a freshman at Illiana Christian High School, and is recognized by his teammates for his positive attitude and strong will. Mr. Nick Ullman just completed his freshman year at Andrean High School in Merrillville last spring, and is now a sophomore at Crown Point High School. Another Alliance member that plays many different sports at his high school is Mr. Derek Moser, who plays football, basketball, and baseball for Highland High School.

The remaining two members of the Northwest Indiana Alliance are Mr. Mike Bizoukas and Mr. Nick Stolarz from Munster High School. Mike recently completed his 8th grade year at Wilbur Wright Middle School, and is now a freshman at Munster High School. Nick, as a freshman, played on the Junior Varsity team, and is now a sophomore at Munster High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Northwest Indiana Alliance Basketball Team for their outstanding championship victory at the United States Specialty Sports Association Nationals. Their hard work and dedication is worthy of the highest commendation.

SIKHS PROTEST ON INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, DEMAND FREEDOM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, while we were in recess, India celebrated its Independence Day on August 15. I join my colleagues in congratulating India on 56 years of independence, but what is India really celebrating?

Indian Independence Day is certainly not a celebration for the minorities living under the boot of Indian repression. Is missionary Graham Staines, who was burned to death along with his two young sons while they slept in their jeep, celebrating? Is human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa, who was murdered in police custody after exposing the Indian government's policy of mass cremations, celebrating? Is Gurdev Singh Kaunke, who was murdered by the Indian police official Swaran Singh Ghotna, celebrating? What about the priests who have been murdered, the nuns who have been raped, the Christians whose peaceful religious festival was broken up by police gunfire, or American missionary Joseph Cooper, who was thrown out of the country after being beaten so severely by Hindu nationalists that he had to spend a week in a hospital? Do you think they are celebrating Indian Independence Day? I seriously doubt it, Mr. Speaker.

India is a multinational state like the old Austro-Hungarian Empire or the Soviet Union. The record of history is that countries like that don't last. Eventually, they all break up. That makes India's 56 years of independence all the more remarkable, and perhaps it explains why India has to try to keep the country together by force.